

## A Comparison between the Motherhood in “Daystar” and “To a Daughter Leaving Home”

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Apparently, we can see that these two poems are related to “motherhood”. However, there are so much difference between them.

First of all, let us focus on the topic of two poems. The second one “To a Daughter Leaving Home” is undoubtedly a farewell poem. However, “Daystar” does not seem to directly connect to motherhood because I think it somehow symbolizes something else or that it’s just a kind of metaphor. Daystar, unlike the stars at night, will disappear immediately when the sun is glamorous enough, and it’s also not that attractive. We might wonder whether the mother’s time is so limited that it vanishes immediately because she is seriously confined to the family—her husband and child. Therefore, I think “Daystar” conveys a negative sense, and the motherhood may upset the mother. On the other hand, the topic “To a Daughter Leaving Home” is like writing a letter or a diary. Using this topic to show the affection is completely corresponding to normal cognitions to the motherhood.

Secondly, we can take a look at the point of view. “Daystar” uses a third person point of view while “To a Daughter Leaving Home” uses the first person. Generally speaking, motherhood is irreplaceable; therefore, it will be more reasonable to use the first person point of view. Through this way, readers can perceive that the feelings and concerns are from the mother herself. However, through the third person point of view, the speaker is describing things. We will unconsciously compare the mother to a babysitter to some degree. Thus, we can also see the different motherhood presented in the point of view.

Next, we come to the contents which infer the motherhood in a totally different way. There are three stanzas in “Daystar”. The first stanza is about the daily routines such as cleaning the room, washing diapers or restoring the toys. In the second stanza, some sceneries pop up abruptly but disappear soon and then the reality comes into eyes. In the last stanza, the speaker describes the importance of that free hour. After that, a large amount of busyness will start bothering her again. There are many arrangements implying the motherhood so far. In the last line, it points out that the mother is nothing and directly denies the value of motherhood in the relationship. On the other hand, instead of separating the poem “To a daughter Leaving Home” into stanzas, the author describes the situation of heart gradually and exquisitely in just one stanza. Although it doesn’t express the motherhood directly, readers can experience the care, the sense of nostalgia, and the unwillingness of the daughter’s departure in every word. The difference of motherhood is so easy to recognize.

Although the two attitudes are presented in different ways: one is depressed and the other is gratified, the spirit of motherhood is the same: a sweet burden. Because two poems put emphasis on different aspects of motherhood, it may lead us to think that they don't share any commonalities. Nevertheless, the two mothers just go through different stages of raising children. In my opinion, "Daystar" and "To a Daughter Leaving Home" are reflecting each other. The mother in the later poem is both happy and sad at the same time when facing her daughter's leaving because she once dealt with those bothering stuffs which means stress in the former poem. As for the former poem, the mother must be exhausted and furious then; however, she sticks to the principle of being a mother and believes that she will expect the day when the child turns into an adult. From the point of the spirit of motherhood, I think they are the same.

To sum up, I notice that there are at least three different points for us to look at Pastan's poems—the presentation of the topic, the point of view, and the content. The two poems do share one thing in common at least—the spirit. Although we will consider the motherhood in "Daystar" as a liability and that in "To a Daughter Leaving Home" as a nostalgic affection, we can't neglect the fundamental spirit of the motherhood they share.